

Appn. No.: 09/610,269
Amendment Dated April 11, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2005

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Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-17, further comprising:

transmitting a first portion of a data packet in a stream of data packets from at least one remote terminal through an upstream channel in response to the periodically allocated grant;

determining whether a combined bandwidth size of ~~the a~~ remaining portion of the data packet and a subsequent data packet of a stream of data packets to be transmitted from the at least one remote terminal through the upstream channel is greater than the size of the next available periodically allocated grant, and, if so;

transmitting at least the remaining portion of the data packet in response to the next available periodically allocated grant, and, where the grant is one of the individually unsolicited periodically allocated grant;

requesting a further dynamically allocated grant along with the transmission of the at least remaining portion, the requested dynamically allocated grant being of a bandwidth size by which the remaining portion of the data packet and the subsequent data packet exceed the size of the next available periodically allocated grant; and

transmitting at least ~~the a~~ remaining portion of the subsequent data packet in response to an available grant following the next available grant.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-17 further comprising
the step of transmitting a first portion of a data packet in a stream of data packets from at least one remote terminal through an upstream channel in response to the periodically allocated grant;

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wherein the bandwidth size of a data packet of a stream of packets is determined by storing the data packet in a buffer of the at least one remote terminal and the bandwidth size of the stored data packet is determined by comparing the bandwidth size of the buffer contents to the at least one predetermined bandwidth size threshold value.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-2 wherein the remaining portion of the subsequent data packet is transmitted in response to the dynamically allocated grant corresponding to the request.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-17 further comprising the step of transmitting a first portion of a data packet in a stream of data packets from at least one remote terminal through an upstream channel in response to the periodically allocated grant:

wherein the first portion has a bandwidth size that is less than or equal to about the bandwidth size of the individually unsolicited periodically allocated grant.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-2 wherein the stream of packet data is variable-bit rate compressed video data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the video is compressed pursuant to the motion picture experts group standard (MPEG).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-17 wherein the network is data over cable system interface (DOCSIS) compliant.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1-2 wherein the request resides in an extended header of the first portion transmission.

10. (Original) A method of transmitting variable bit rate data packets over a bi-directional contention and reservation based network, the network including an operably linked system controller for receiving upstream channel packets and originating downstream channel packets, at least one operably linked remote terminal for receiving the downstream channel packets and originating the upstream channel packets, the network providing

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periodically allocated grants from the system controller to the at least one remote terminal in the downstream channel for scheduling data packet transfers in the upstream channel, the periodically allocated grants having a bandwidth size, and the network providing dynamically allocated grants from the system controller to the at least one remote terminal in the downstream channel upon request of the at least one remote terminal for scheduling data packet transfers in the upstream channel, the dynamically allocated grants being of a requested bandwidth size, the method comprising:

decomposing a first variable bit-rate data packet of a stream of data packets to be transmitted from the at least one remote terminal through the upstream channel into a constant bit-rate packet portion and a variable bit-rate packet portion, the constant bit-rate packet portion having a bandwidth size substantially equal to the average bit-rate of the stream of packets;

determining whether the bandwidth size of the decomposed packet is greater than the size of the periodically allocated grant, and, if so;

requesting a dynamically allocated grant, the requested dynamically allocated grant substantially equal in bandwidth size to the variable bit-rate packet portion;

transmitting the constant bit-rate packet portion in response to a periodically allocated grant; and

transmitting the variable bit-rate packet portion in response to a next available grant.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the bandwidth size of a data packet of a stream of packets is determined by storing the data packet in a buffer of the at least one remote terminal and the bandwidth size of the stored data packet is determined by comparing the bandwidth size of the buffer contents to at least one bandwidth size threshold value.

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12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the variable bit-rate packet portion is transmitted in response to the dynamically allocated grant corresponding to the request.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the variable bit rate packet data is compressed video data.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the video is compressed pursuant to the motion picture experts group standard (MPEG).

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the network is data over cable system interface (DOCSIS) compliant.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the request resides in the extended header of the constant bit-rate packet.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of dynamically adjusting the size of a periodically allocated grant of a bi-directional contention and reservation based cable network, the method comprising:

determining an average bandwidth size of an unused portion of the periodically allocated grant;

determining an average bandwidth size of requested dynamically allocated grants; and

adjusting the bandwidth size of the periodically allocated grant based on the measured sizes and at least one predetermined threshold.